

33-223

OGC 63-0075

9 January 1963

OGC Has Reviewed

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
SUBJECT: Cuban Prisoner Release Negotiations

1. This memorandum is for information.
2. Attached is an official report from me to you directed to the role of the Agency in the Cuban prisoner negotiations in December and stating that that role was one of normal intelligence support and no Agency funds were involved in the acquisition or transportation of materials, transportation of the prisoners, or the cash settlement. Being an official report, it is a statement made, of course, under the penalties of law concerning false official statements and, therefore, has greater validity than a normal affidavit.
3. For your information I will outline what we did do in connection with our intelligence support and what this meant in the way of Agency financial involvement.

a. [redacted] was assigned full time to work with the Department of Justice and so his services for the major part of December were contributed. Other members of my staff and I spent considerable time on the problem.

25X1

b. [redacted] Office of Communications, established most effective communications between Havana and Miami and Miami and the Department of Justice in Washington, and his activities involved the expenditure of perhaps [redacted]. He used a safehouse in Miami, [redacted]. Mr. [redacted] also made arrangements for expediting Mr. Donovan's entry and departure at Miami.

25X1

25X1

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c. Security officers [redacted] contributed 25X1  
considerable time and were most helpful.

d. Some [redacted] personnel were indirectly involved. 25X1

e. [redacted] Office of Scientific Intel- 25X1  
ligence, spent considerable time helping to analyze the  
drug supplies at the request of the Department of Justice.

f. The Agency provided transportation by means of the  
[redacted] debriefing team,  
including Agency personnel, to debrief Mr. Donovan at  
Lake Placid and particularly to go into detail in the  
problems of freeing the Americans.

g. We may be asked to pick up certain incidental  
communications' charges or consultants' fees which might  
be difficult or impossible for Justice or State to process  
but which would be fairly routine from our point of view.

4. I believe all the foregoing are legitimate activities in a  
cooperative effort by the Government and are consistent with the  
attached statement.

5. The medical expenses for the continuing treatment of  
the returned prisoners are considered to be a completely separate  
matter and do not involve us in the Donovan negotiations.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel

Attachment

cc: DDCI  
Executive Director  
DD/P  
Chief, [redacted]  
General Counsel

1 January 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Cuban Prisoner Release Negotiations

1. This memorandum is to establish for the record the role of the Agency in connection with negotiations which led to the release at Christmas time of the Cuban prisoners.

2. As directed by you, I assumed responsibility for coordinating all Agency action in connection with the negotiations conducted by Mr. Donovan on behalf of the Cuban Families for Liberation of Prisoners of War, Inc. with Premier Castro in December which resulted in the release of the Cuban prisoners. My office maintained a close liaison with the appropriate offices of the Department of State, the Department of Justice, and the Department of the Treasury to afford such intelligence support as was appropriate. In return, we were kept currently informed in complete detail on all developments in connection with negotiations and all steps leading up to the release.

3. Apart from the intelligence support, including making available certain staff specialists for coordination and advice on technical matters, the Agency was not a party to the negotiations or other arrangements which led to the release of the Cuban prisoners. Specifically, no Agency funds were committed directly or indirectly or in any way expended in connection with the furnishing of the drugs, food, and other supplies which have been and will be delivered to Castro in accordance with Donovan's negotiations or in connection with the transportation of such supplies or the transportation of the prisoners from Cuba to the United States. No Agency funds were committed directly or indirectly or in any way expended in connection with the cash payment of \$2,925,000 which was demanded by Castro as part of the price of the release. Thus, the Agency's role throughout this transaction was one of rendering normal intelligence support to the other interested departments and agencies of the Government.

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